

Mr. Larry R. Strawderman
Information and Privacy Coordinator
CIA
Washington, D.C. 20505

9/22/84

Dear Mr. Strawderman,

When the envelope holding your letter of the 21st and its enclosure came today and I saw that it was both registered mail and then even stapled, I thought well, perhaps, the CIA has finally decided that the law of the land applies to it, too, if only on occasion. Then I opened the envelope, found your short letter in which you repeat your false representations of July 9, which I proved were false point by point, without dispute or attempted refutation, and a duplicate copy of your regulations I have addressed without refutation from you, and I could not see how, if any of this got to the KBG or DRI it could endanger national security in any way. They know you lie and the regulations were published, so they had nothing to learn. Why else, I wondered, would you take all these precautions, waste all that taxpayers' time and money?

As I thought of this I realized that there appears to be nothing the CIA will not do to phony up false statistics of FOIA costs and nothing it will not do to frustrate FOIA and requesters. And then I realized that in a memorandum Jim Lesar prepared relating to the proposal to exempt certain CIA files from FOIA he had made reference to one of your untruthful letters. So, you have generated another irrelevancy you can use in private, one you can use to mislead and misrepresent.

There certainly is ~~no~~ honest purpose that can be served in again sending me the regulations I have addressed at some length and you have not in any way challenged. Especially when you have this letter for flashing around as though it responds to the request I actually made for an entirely different regulation you cited and I believe and told you I believe does not exist. There simply cannot be any regulation that counters or nullifies an act of Congress, as you represented.

With it obvious that you may be self-serving in all of this, I review the recent correspondence, all of this year.

On 2/16 you refer to my 12/13/83 asking the status of my many ignored requests, all of quite long ago, by stating that "Pursuant to the rules and regulations governing our FOIA process we are unable to accept requests for additional services" because I allegedly owe you money. You refused to inform me of the status of requests for which the CIA had requested more time and about which it had provided written assurances of compliance. I asked for a copy of the regulations you invoked. On April 10 you sent me a copy, highlighting what you regard as pertinent. Three days later I replied by, among other things, pointing out that the situation exists only because of the

CIA's violation of its regulations and that there is no indication that these were the regulations in effect when the CIA ignored my requests [REDACTED] and asked for more time. I also repeated my request for information on the status of those requests and appeals. I received no response and wrote you again on 6/15, repeating what I had said earlier about your interpretation of the regulations.

I have ~~referred~~ to being deceived by the CIA years earlier with regard to those requests and because he, personally, had deceived and mislead me with what was a serious misrepresentation of the ~~status~~ of those request I wrote your Associate General Counsel Launie Ziebell 6/27. He has not responded.

Instead of disputing my allegations, including that the CIA itself was in violation of its own regulations, on 9/9 you wrote me that even if I were to pay the sum I believe I do not owe you it would make no difference because "our ^{FOIA} files on requests that have been dormant (sic) for two or more years almost certainly have been destroyed." "Dormant" when the CIA itself does not respond to requests, "dormant" when it asks for more time?

I wrote you again 7/26, again at some length and again asking for regulations. But not those you finally sent that came today. Which as you very well know I had and had addressed, without refutation from you. You wrote me that your regulations required the destruction of these allegedly "dormant" requests and appeals and what I actually asked you for is those invoked regulations, not duplicates of those you had already sent.

I wrote you again 9/19 because either you appear to have lied to me or the CIA to have lied to the Congress, you telling me that the ~~regulations~~ destructions begin in two years and the CIA having told the Congress its backlog is as much as three years. (I misread one word and wrote you again correcting this 8/23.)

This resume makes it clear that I wrote you on a number of occasions without any response from you. I raised what I regard as substantial questions, those that I believe most people would not only regard as requiring response from you but also questions that you ought want to address in the interest of your own and the Agency's integrity. However, for your own reasons, you ignored them and you now say that your yesterday's letter "is in response to" my "letter of 23 August 1984."

Your alleged response consists of these parts: 1) reiteration of your claims of 7/9/84, which I addressed and at the least disputed, without refutation from you; and 2) enclosing a duplicate copy of the regulations you knew I had and did not ask for.

Neither is in any way responsive to my letter you pretend to respond to.

In my brief letter of 8/23 I: 1) repeated my request for your ~~regulations~~ that you claim authorizes or requires the destruction of FOIA records beginning in two years when you have ignored those requests and appeals and asked for more time; and 2)

asked you how you could possibly have a regulation for the destruction of records as much as year before you reached the end of your backlog ^{as} of that time.

You know very well that you have not in any way responded to my letter of the 23rd of last month and that you have created a false record that can be misused to make it appear that you have been responsive.

There is nothing I can do about your misuse of self-serving, non-responsive and I think dishonest letters. So, all I can do is what I now try again to do, make a clear and unequivocal record that you may at some point have to face when you cannot work in secrecy.

I am again asking for a copy of the regulations I asked for in the letter to which you now say, entirely untruthfully, that you have responded to.

I am again asking you to address the questions I raised months ago after receiving the regulations I interpret as establishing that it is the CIA which is in violation of them. My letter cited specific provisions and if they do not say and mean what I believe they state and mean unequivocally, you can certainly make a record that would serve your and the CIA's interest by responsiveness and specification.

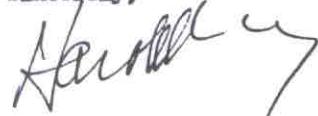
Perhaps you and all of the people on your staff are as old, as unwell and as handicapped as I am and that is why you only conjecture about the alleged destruction ~~of~~ all of the records relating to my requests and appeals. If you are not 100% so afflicted, can it possibly be that your files are so convoluted that you cannot have a clerk check, I presume under my name, and not have to conjecture? Which means not play dirty tricks on an old and unwell man.

Your record and that of those who preceeded you with me remind me of what Director Helms told the editors and publishers in his first public appearance: trust us, we do not target on Americans. Do I now have to characterize that statement for you? And if you are not still targeting on me, why in the world do you have to pull all these dirty tricks, why can't you be responsive, why do you have to stonewall and persist in wasting that much more of what remains of my life and work?

And, ~~in~~ plain English, demean yourself and the Agency.

If in no other way, historically the question so many collegiates asked me for so many years lingers and will linger: if the government has nothing to hide, why does it hide so much?

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg
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